

1                   UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
2                   NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
3                   Before The Honorable Peter H. Kang, Magistrate Judge  
4

5                   UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,         )  
6    )  
7    )  
8    vs.    ) No. CR 25-00012-RFL-1  
9    )  
10   ALEXANDER CHARLES BECKMAN                          )  
11    and VALERIE LAU BECKMAN,                              )  
12    Defendants.    )  
13    )\_\_\_\_\_

14    San Francisco, California  
15    Thursday, January 23, 2025

16    TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE OFFICIAL ELECTRONIC SOUND  
17    RECORDING 11:20 - 11:41/11:43 - 12:05 = 43 MINUTES

18    APPEARANCES:

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  BY: PATRICK K. O'BRIEN, ESQ.

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1 Thursday, January 23, 2025

11:20 a.m.

2 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

3 --oo--

4 THE COURT: Again for me.

5 MR. JOINER: J-O-I-N-E-R.

6 THE COURT: Joiner. Okay. Thank you. Good  
7 morning.

8 MS. JOHNSON: Good morning, your Honor. Allyse  
9 Johnson, U.S. Pretrial.

10 THE COURT: Good morning.

11 Mr. Beckman, we're here today for an initial  
12 appearance on an indictment.

13 That's correct, right?

14 MR. O'BRIEN: Yes, your Honor, and at the outset,  
15 the Government would move to unseal the case and all  
16 documents in the case, except for the indictment, which your  
17 Honor is aware of from the Government's submission. There  
18 will be some minor redactions to the indictment.

19 THE COURT: Okay. So has the redacted indictment  
20 been posted?

21 MR. O'BRIEN: It has not, your Honor, and we can  
22 talk about this after. There was an issue with the copying  
23 of the original indictment, not having a color copy of a  
24 picture that was filed, so what I would propose is  
25 submitting a version of the redacted indictment that your

1 Honor reviewed last night with the color photo in it for  
2 posting and filing on the docket.

3 THE COURT: Okay. All right. Mr. Joinder, any  
4 objection to that procedure?

5 MR. JOINDER: No objection, your Honor.

6 THE COURT: Okay. So granted. The case is  
7 unsealed, but for the indictment, which will be filed and  
8 posted in its redacted form once it's all squared away by  
9 the Government.

10 MR. O'BRIEN: Thank you, your Honor.

11 THE COURT: Okay. So, first, Mr. Beckman, could  
12 you please state your full true name for the record.

13 MR. BECKMAN: Alexander Charles Beckman.

14 THE COURT: Okay. And how old are you, sir?

15 MR. BECKMAN: Forty-one.

16 THE COURT: Okay. You're here today in this court  
17 because a grand jury sitting in this district has returned  
18 an indictment charging you with certain felony offenses.

19 Everybody has a copy of the indictment?

20 MR. JOINDER: Yes, your Honor.

21 THE COURT: Okay. The purpose of the hearing  
22 today is to advise you of the charges contained in the  
23 indictment, the potential penalties the charges carry,  
24 advise you of some of your constitutional rights, determine  
25 if you intend to retain counsel or if you're eligible for

1 the appointment of counsel, set some further hearings in the  
2 case, and then make a decision about whether you would be  
3 released on bond or detained pending resolution of your  
4 case.

5       So, first, you have the right to remain silent. You're  
6 not required to make any statement. If you have made a  
7 statement, you're not required to say anything more. If you  
8 start to make a statement, you may stop at any time. You  
9 may consult with your attorney before any questioning, and  
10 you may have an attorney present during any questioning.  
11 Because you have a right not to make a statement, any  
12 statement that you do make, other than to your own attorney,  
13 may be used against you.

14      Do you understand your right to silence?

15           MR. BECKMAN: I do.

16           THE COURT: You also have the right to an attorney  
17 in this case. You have a right to be represented by that  
18 attorney during all stages of the case, both in court and  
19 out of court. You have a right to have that attorney with  
20 you during any questioning by authorities. You have a right  
21 to retain an attorney of your own choosing, but, if you  
22 can't afford one, the Court will appoint one to represent  
23 you, at no cost to you.

24      Do you understand your right to an attorney?

25           MR. BECKMAN: I do.

1           THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Joiner, you're privately  
2 retained?

3           MR. JOINDER: I am, your Honor.

4           THE COURT: Okay. I don't want to make any  
5 assumptions. Is the Defendant a U.S. citizen?

6           MR. JOINDER: He is, your Honor.

7           THE COURT: Okay. Turning to the indictment, as I  
8 said, it charges you with a number of criminal offenses.

9           So, Mr. O'Brien, why don't you go ahead and  
10 summarize the charges and the maximum penalties.

11          MR. O'BRIEN: Yes, your Honor. There are 25  
12 counts in the indictment. Mr. Beckman is charged with 23 of  
13 the 25 counts. Counts one through nine charge violations of  
14 Title 18, United States Code Section 1343, wire fraud, and  
15 counts 10 and 11 charge violations of Title 18, United  
16 States Code Section 1349, conspiracy to commit wire fraud.

17          The maximum penalties for counts one through 11 are 20  
18 years' imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine or twice the gross  
19 pecuniary gain or loss from the offense, three years of  
20 supervised release, a \$100 special assessment, restitution,  
21 and forfeiture, and that's per count, those maximum  
22 penalties.

23          Counts 12 and 14 charge violations of Title 15, United  
24 States Code Section 78j(b) and 78f(f), and Title 17, Code of  
25 Federal Regulations Section 240.10b-5, securities fraud.

1 The maximum penalties per count are 20 years' imprisonment,  
2 a \$5,000,000 fine, three years of supervised release, a \$100  
3 special assessment, restitution, and forfeiture.

4 Count 15 charges a violation of Title 18, United States  
5 Code Section 371, conspiracy to commit securities fraud.

6 The maximum penalties are five years' imprisonment, \$250,000  
7 fine, three years of supervised release, a \$100 special  
8 assessment, restitution, and forfeiture.

9 Count 16 charges a violation of Title 18, United States  
10 Code Section 1349, conspiracy to commit bank fraud. The  
11 maximum penalties for that count are 30 years' imprisonment,  
12 a \$1,000,000 fine, five years of supervised release, and a  
13 \$100 special assessment, restitution, and forfeiture.

14 Count 17 charges a violation of Title 18, United States  
15 Code Section 1014, false statement to a bank or other  
16 federally insured institution. The maximum penalties are 30  
17 years' imprisonment, a \$1,000,000 fine, five years of  
18 supervised release, a \$100 special assessment, restitution,  
19 and forfeiture.

20 Count 18 charges a violation of Title 18, United States  
21 Code Section 1957, engaging in monetary transactions and  
22 property derived from specified unlawful activity. The  
23 maximum penalties are 10 years' imprisonment, \$250,000 fine  
24 or twice the amount of the criminally derived property  
25 involved in the transaction, three years of supervised

1 release, \$100 special assessment, restitution, and  
2 forfeiture.

3 Counts 19 through 24 charge violations of Title 18,  
4 United States Code Section 1028A, aggravated identity theft.  
5 The minimum penalties per count are that there's a mandatory  
6 minimum prison term of two years that must be consecutive to  
7 any other term of imprisonment imposed on the person under  
8 any other provision of law, except the Court has discretion  
9 to impose concurrent sentences only with another term of  
10 imprisonment that is imposed by the Court at the same time  
11 on that person for an additional violation of Title 18,  
12 United States Code Section 1028A.

13 The other maximum penalties are a \$250,000 fine, three  
14 years' supervised release, a \$100 special assessment, and  
15 that's per count for the aggravated identity theft counts.

16 THE COURT: Mr. Beckman, do you understand the  
17 charges against you and the maximum penalties you face?

18 MR. BECKMAN: I do.

19 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Joiner, do you waive formal  
20 reading of the indictment?

21 MR. JOINDER: We do, your Honor.

22 THE COURT: And are you prepared to enter a plea  
23 on behalf of client at this time?

24 MR. JOINDER: Yes, your Honor, not guilty.

25 THE COURT: Plea of not guilty on the charges in

1 the indictment will be entered. The record will reflect the  
2 Defendant has been arraigned on the indictment.

3 Pursuant to the Due Process Protection Act, counsel for  
4 the Government are reminded of their obligations, pursuant  
5 to Brady v. Maryland and its progeny, to disclose material  
6 that is favorable to the Defendant and material either to  
7 the Defendant's guilt or punishment. The failure to do so  
8 in a timely manner may result in dismissal of the indictment  
9 or information, dismissal of individual charges, exclusion  
10 of government evidence or witnesses, or any other remedy  
11 that is just under the circumstances.

12 Mr. O'Brien, does the Government acknowledge those  
13 duties?

14 MR. O'BRIEN: Yes, your Honor.

15 THE COURT: Have the parties discussed detention?  
16 What's the Government's position on detention?

17 MR. O'BRIEN: Your Honor, we've discussed  
18 conditions of release. I believe Mr. Joiner has a copy of  
19 proposed release conditions. They would involve a  
20 \$1,000,000 secured bond to be posted within two weeks or a  
21 date that we set with your Honor.

22 There would be restrictions on travel. The Government  
23 obtained the Defendant's passport this morning, pursuant to  
24 a search, and we will turn those over to Pretrial Services.  
25 There would be supervision by Pretrial Services, and a

1 restriction that the Defendant cannot speak to his  
2 co-Defendant outside the presence of counsel about the case.  
3 There are some additional conditions on the form as well,  
4 but that's me summarizing the highlights there.

5 THE COURT: Okay. Has Pretrial seen those  
6 conditions?

7 MS. JOHNSON: No, your Honor.

8 THE COURT: Okay. So why don't you make sure  
9 Pretrial has a chance to review and comment.

10 The form is filled out slightly incorrectly. I'm going  
11 to move the "million dollars" to under the box for secured  
12 bond, because this box is when people are on personal  
13 recognition.

14 MR. O'BRIEN: Okay. I apologize, your Honor. I  
15 have a blank form if your Honor prefers that.

16 THE COURT: The parties are okay? We'll do it by  
17 hand?

18 MR. O'BRIEN: Yes, that's great.

19 MR. JOINDER: Absolutely, your Honor.

20 THE COURT: All right. And, also, I assume one of  
21 the conditions is that -- right -- the Defendant must not  
22 change telephone numbers without prior approval. There's no  
23 telephone number listed. Do you have a telephone number?

24 MR. O'BRIEN: Do you want to put the telephone  
25 number on, Scott?

1           MR. JOINDER: We can add that, your Honor.

2           THE COURT: Okay. Does Pretrial have any comments  
3 or additions to the conditions, the bond form?

4           MS. JOHNSON: Not right now, your Honor.

5           MR. O'BRIEN: And, your Honor, on that point, what  
6 I would propose is we're going to -- the Government will ask  
7 to come back in roughly two weeks, and if there any changes  
8 in circumstances or concerns about what's going on, then we  
9 may seek the Court's permission to revisit some of these.

10          THE COURT: Okay. All right.

11          So, Mr. Beckman, the parties have agreed to release you  
12 under certain conditions, which I want to go over with you,  
13 just to make sure you fully understand them.

14          So, most -- well, first of all, not most importantly --  
15 first of all, you're signing onto what's called a "secured  
16 bond" of a million dollars, which will be secured by  
17 property located at 3877-3879 Jackson Street in San  
18 Francisco.

19          Is that -- that's your residence?

20          MR. BECKMAN: Yes.

21          THE COURT: Okay. And you understand, by posting  
22 what's called a "secured bond," right, you're posting that  
23 property as -- essentially to assure your compliance with  
24 the rest of your conditions.

25          Do you understand that?

1 MR. BECKMAN: I do.

2 THE COURT: All right. So, if you violate even a  
3 single condition of release, the Government has the option  
4 to file a motion with the Court to forfeit the bond, and  
5 they could ask for up the full amount, plus interest and  
6 costs. It could be more than that.

7 Do you understand that?

8 MR. BECKMAN: Yes.

9 THE COURT: It's a very financial commitment  
10 you're making. Do you understand all that?

11 MR. BECKMAN: I do.

12 THE COURT: All right. The conditions that are  
13 proposed are that the Defendant must appear at all  
14 proceedings, as ordered by the Court, and must surrender for  
15 service of any sentence imposed.

16 The Defendant must not commit any federal, state, or  
17 local crime.

18 The Defendant must not harass, threaten, intimidate,  
19 injure, tamper with, or retaliate against any witness,  
20 victim, informant, juror, or officer of the Court, or  
21 obstruct any criminal investigation.

22 The Defendant must surrender any passports or other  
23 travel documents to Pretrial Services by January 23rd, 2025,  
24 which I think has happened or will have happened, and must  
25 not apply for other passports or travel documents.

1       The Defendant must not possess any firearm, destructive  
2 device, or other dangerous weapon. The Defendant must not  
3 use alcohol to excess, and must not use or possess any  
4 narcotic or other controlled substance without a legal  
5 prescription.

6       The Defendant must have no contact, directly or  
7 indirectly, with any co-defendant outside of the presence of  
8 counsel.

9       The Defendant must not change residence or telephone  
10 number without prior approval of Pretrial Services, and,  
11 just to be clear, your address is 3877-3879 on Jackson  
12 Street in San Francisco?

13           MR. BECKMAN: Yes.

14           THE COURT: All right. And we're going to fill in  
15 your phone number.

16       The Defendant must comply with the following location  
17 restrictions. The Defendant must not travel outside of the  
18 Northern District of California, and the bond form has a map  
19 of what counties of California constitute the Northern  
20 District of California, and you'll have that.

21       So do you understand all those proposed conditions for  
22 your release?

23           MR. BECKMAN: I do.

24           THE COURT: All right.

25           MR. O'BRIEN: Your Honor, the one thing I just

1 wanted to flag is, I thought I had -- or the box was already  
2 checked regarding pretrial supervision. There is some role  
3 for Pretrial here in terms of having the passports, and also  
4 changing address without the prior approval of Pretrial.

5 I don't envision that it's going to be anything  
6 significantly more burdensome than what's already  
7 contemplated to have pretrial supervision here, but I wanted  
8 to flag that. That was my original intention, was to have  
9 pretrial supervision here. It's the box under the witness  
10 tampering, so it's the fourth box down.

11 THE COURT: So, with the parties' consent, I will  
12 check that box.

13 Mr. Joiner?

14 MR. JOINDER: I'm sorry, your Honor?

15 THE COURT: With the parties' consent, I'll check  
16 the box adding the condition:

17 "The Defendant must submit to  
18 supervision by Pretrial Services, and  
19 must report immediately upon release and  
20 thereafter as direct to Pretrial  
21 Services."

22 MR. JOINDER: Well, I talked with Mr. O'Brien  
23 about this, your Honor. I don't think pretrial supervision  
24 is necessary. Having them hold the passports makes complete  
25 sense, but Mr. Beckman is represented by experienced

1 counsel, and I don't see a need for that, especially given  
2 his ties to the community.

3 MR. O'BRIEN: So, your Honor, the one thing I  
4 would say on that is that this case has significant  
5 instances of deception and uses of other people's  
6 identities, false e-mail accounts, false documents, and I do  
7 think it's appropriate, given the Defendant's resources, the  
8 seriousness of the charges, and the conduct that I just laid  
9 out, that there should be the additional condition that  
10 pretrial supervision is required.

11 THE COURT: I mean, Mr. Joiner, the level and  
12 intensity of supervision by Pretrial Services is something  
13 that you can certainly discuss with them as appropriate. I  
14 mean, every case is handled on its own facts.

15 MR. JOINDER: Certainly, your Honor.

16 THE COURT: And so I'll leave it up to you to talk  
17 with them about what is appropriate in terms of the kind of  
18 supervision that they would give, but, since they're holding  
19 his passport, and there are location restrictions and all  
20 that, I do think some level of supervision, at least on the  
21 record, is appropriate, also because Pretrial acts as an arm  
22 of the Court, in helping the Court understand what's going  
23 on with the Defendant through the pretrial.

24 MR. JOINDER: Certainly, your Honor. Happy to  
25 have those conversations.

1           THE COURT: Okay. So, again, having said that,  
2 I'm going to order that we have that condition. Defendant  
3 must submit to supervision by Pretrial Services, and must  
4 report immediately upon release and thereafter as directed  
5 to Pretrial Services.

6           So, with those -- and it's Mr. Beckman -- do you  
7 understand the conditions for your release?

8           MR. BECKMAN: I do.

9           THE COURT: Okay. Just as a practical matter,  
10 because I know from the indictment the Defendant and the  
11 Co-Defendant are spouses, how does the "not speaking with  
12 your Co-Defendant" work in a case like this?

13           MR. O'BRIEN: Your Honor, I think it's just a  
14 commitment from the Defendant that he's not going to talk  
15 about the case, outside the presence of lawyers, with his  
16 wife, and it may be difficult to enforce, but he needs to  
17 commit to that, to the Court.

18           THE COURT: Mr. Beckman, you understand that  
19 that's one of your conditions of release?

20           MR. BECKMAN: I do.

21           THE COURT: Okay. And so, as I said, if it comes  
22 out later that you've been speaking about the case with your  
23 Co-Defendant outside the presence of counsel, that would be  
24 a violation of your terms of release.

25           MR. BECKMAN: I understand.

1           THE COURT: Okay. And your release could be  
2 revoked, more conditions imposed, different conditions  
3 imposed. You could be -- you know, again, release could be  
4 revoked, and the Court could decide at that point that you  
5 shouldn't be released, because you've shown an inability to  
6 follow the conditions.

7           Do you understand those potential penalties?

8           MR. BECKMAN: Yes.

9           THE COURT: Okay. All right. Let's go ahead and  
10 get this executed.

11          While they're doing that, Mr. O'Brien, has the  
12 Government done any diligence to determine if there's  
13 sufficient equity in the residence to satisfy that secured  
14 bond?

15          MR. O'BRIEN: I believe there is, your Honor.

16          THE COURT: Okay. With that representation --  
17 I'll accept that representation.

18          Okay. So, one last chance. Any further comments,  
19 edits to the bond form from the Government?

20          MR. O'BRIEN: No, your Honor.

21          THE COURT: From Pretrial?

22          MS. JOHNSON: No, your Honor.

23          THE COURT: From the defense?

24          MR. JOINDER: No, your Honor.

25          THE COURT: All right. So, Mr. Beckman, is this

1 your signature on the bond form?

2 MR. BECKMAN: It is.

3 THE COURT: Okay. You fully understand, and read  
4 the bond form before signing onto it?

5 MR. BECKMAN: I did.

6 THE COURT: So you agree these are the conditions  
7 you're going to follow?

8 MR. BECKMAN: Yes.

9 THE COURT: Do I have your promise you're going to  
10 follow your conditions of release?

11 MR. BECKMAN: I promise, yes.

12 THE COURT: So I'm going to sign off on the bond  
13 form.

14 I gave the Brady admonishment?

15 MR. O'BRIEN: Yes, your Honor.

16 THE COURT: We need to set dates, in front of who,  
17 Judge Lin?

18 MR. O'BRIEN: Your Honor, it's in front of Judge  
19 Lin, the District Court judge, your Honor.

20 In this particular case, I'm open to setting a date in  
21 front of Judge Lin, but I think it makes sense to also set a  
22 date to come back for, probably, your Honor, even though you  
23 won't be the duty judge in February, if you're signing the  
24 bond, for a bond status hearing, to the extent there's any  
25 issue with the security, and also just to confirm identity

1 of counsel, certainly for Mr. Beckman's Co-Defendant, who is  
2 going to have an Assistant Federal Public Defender today.

3 Just for the record, I have flagged some circumstances  
4 for Mr. Joiner regarding the issues regarding his law firm  
5 in this case, and so we may discuss those at that point as  
6 well.

7 MR. JOINDER: And just to be clear, your Honor,  
8 I've been informed the Government has no objection to me  
9 representing Mr. Beckman in this proceeding, during the  
10 initial stages.

11 MR. O'BRIEN: That's correct, your Honor.

12 THE COURT: Okay. Well, a couple weeks. So,  
13 thinking first or second week of February? Is that what  
14 you're -- or later?

15 THE CLERK: We already have a criminal matter on  
16 February 10th at 2:00, if you wanted another one.

17 THE COURT: Come back on a criminal calendar on  
18 February 10th?

19 MR. O'BRIEN: That would work for the Government,  
20 your Honor.

21 MR. JOINDER: For the defense as well, your Honor.

22 THE COURT: Okay. So next hearing is set before  
23 me for February 10th at 2:00 o'clock, where we'll discuss  
24 status regarding the bond terms, and status regarding  
25 defense counsel, I guess, and working out those issues.

1           THE CLERK: And then how far out for Judge Lin?

2           THE COURT: Do you want to set a date with Judge  
3 Lin, just to have that on calendar?

4           MR. O'BRIEN: Why don't we set it when we come  
5 back.

6           THE COURT: Come back in a couple weeks.

7           MR. O'BRIEN: In the interim, your Honor, I've  
8 talked to Mr. Joiner about excluding time for effective  
9 preparation of counsel, planning to start making some  
10 initial directions in discovery.

11          There will be a need for a protective order in this  
12 case, and we have a stipulation to exclude time from today's  
13 date, January 23rd, 2025, through February 10th, 2025.

14          THE COURT: For the record, I assume discovery is  
15 going to be voluminous in this case?

16          MR. O'BRIEN: That's correct, your Honor.

17          THE COURT: Okay.

18          THE CLERK: Okay. Thank you.

19          THE COURT: I've been provided the parties'  
20 stipulation to exclude time from today, January 23rd, until  
21 February 10th, 2025, on the grounds that it's necessary for  
22 effective preparation. Given the representation as to the  
23 voluminous nature of discovery, I grant the order.

24          Okay. Anything further from the Government?

25          MR. O'BRIEN: Your Honor, the only thing is just

1 to revisit that question about the redacted indictment.  
2 What the Government intends to do is to apply the redactions  
3 to the version with the color photograph that your Honor  
4 said were okay last night, and that defense counsel has also  
5 agreed to, and submit that filing with the Court for that to  
6 be the -- or for that to be the publicly available version  
7 of the indictment.

8 THE COURT: The redacted version?

9 MR. O'BRIEN: Yes.

10 THE COURT: Not unredacted, the redacted version?

11 MR. O'BRIEN: Yes, yes. Right, right.

12 THE COURT: The public version. Okay.

13 Is that okay, Mr. Joiner?

14 MR. JOINDER: Yes, your Honor.

15 THE COURT: All right. With that, anything  
16 further? Anything else from the Government?

17 MR. O'BRIEN: No, your Honor.

18 THE COURT: Anything else from the defense?

19 MR. JOINDER: No, thank you, your Honor.

20 THE COURT: Anything further from Pretrial?

21 MS. JOHNSON: Yes. We ask that the Defendant  
22 report to our office on the 18th floor once he's released  
23 from marshals.

24 THE COURT: Okay. So, procedurally, Mr. Beckman,  
25 you'll be out-processed here, I guess, right, not at Santa

1 Rita?

2 MR. O'BRIEN: Correct, your Honor.

3 THE COURT: And then, once you're out-processed on  
4 20 -- is where they are -- you'll go down to -- 18?

5 MS. JOHNSON: Yes, your Honor.

6 THE COURT: Eighteen, and meet with Pretrial  
7 before you head out. And then, once you're out-processed  
8 and out, you'll be released subject to all the conditions  
9 that we went through. Do you understand all that?

10 MR. BECKMAN: Yes.

11 THE COURT: Okay. So you are remanded to the  
12 custody of the U.S. Marshal for the purposes of  
13 out-processing, and they're now going to let you be  
14 released, and we're adjourned.

15 MR. JOINDER: Thank you, your Honor.

16 MR. O'BRIEN: Thank you, your Honor.

17 THE CLERK: We're off the record in this matter.

18 (Proceedings recessed briefly.)

19 THE CLERK: Now calling Criminal Matter

20 25-00012-2, United States versus Beckman.

21 Please state appearances for the record, beginning with  
22 the Government.

23 MR. O'BRIEN: Good morning again, your Honor.

24 Patrick O'Brien for the United States.

25 THE COURT: Good morning.

1 MS. FALK: Good morning, your Honor. I'm just  
2 standing in today for Ms. Lau. I'm (indiscernible) qualify  
3 ultimately, but she was arrested very unexpectedly this  
4 morning, and obviously did not have time to retain an  
5 attorney before court today, so I'm going to be standing in.

6 THE COURT: Good morning.

7 Good morning, Ms. Lau.

8 DEFENDANT LAU: Good morning.

9 MS. JOHNSON: Good morning, your Honor. Allyse  
10 Johnson, U.S. Pretrial.

11 THE COURT: Good morning.

12 I mean, if Defendant doesn't qualify under the Criminal  
13 Justice Act, is the Government okay going forward with an  
14 arraignment, or should we wait, put this over and wait until  
15 she retains counsel?

16 MR. O'BRIEN: So, your Honor, I'm fine going  
17 forward today, and I think Ms. Falk is able to stand in for  
18 purposes of today, because the Government does not want to  
19 hold Ms. Lau in detention, but does believe there should be  
20 some conditions of release that she agrees to today, and so  
21 I think it's appropriate to certainly at least get to that  
22 point.

23 If she wants to wait to enter a plea, I don't have a  
24 problem with that. We should advise her of the charges.  
25 She should be advised of her rights. So I think we should

1 just go forward, but, if Ms. Falk has a different view --

2 MS. FALK: I agree. I don't want her held in  
3 custody. It's going to be much harder for her to find an  
4 attorney as well if she's in custody.

5 THE COURT: Just so I'm clear, everybody waives  
6 any objection to proceeding in this matter? Then we'll go  
7 forward.

8 MS. FALK: I spoke to Ms. Lau at length in lockup  
9 today. She definitely wants to go forward, and she would  
10 waive any prejudice.

11 MR. O'BRIEN: I'm not going to come back and say  
12 that she shouldn't have had Ms. Falk at this point.

13 THE COURT: I just want to make that clear on the  
14 record.

15 MS. FALK: Okay.

16 THE COURT: Okay. So -- and does the Defendant go  
17 by "Ms. Beckman" or "Ms. Lau"? I want to make sure.

18 MS. FALK: My understanding is she goes by "Ms.  
19 Lau," but I will ask.

20 DEFENDANT LAU: I do. I go by Ms. Lau.

21 THE COURT: Okay. So, Ms. Lau, we're here for  
22 what's called an "initial appearance" on an indictment. So,  
23 first, for the record, please state your full true name.

24 DEFENDANT LAU: Valerie Lau Beckman.

25 THE COURT: Sorry. Say it again.

1 DEFENDANT LAU: Valerie Lau Beckman.

2 THE COURT: And how old are you, ma'am?

3 DEFENDANT LAU: I'm 38.

4 THE COURT: Okay. You're here today in this court  
5 because a grand jury sitting in this district has returned  
6 an indictment charging you with some felony offenses.

7 Ms. Falk, do you have a copy of the indictment?

8 MS. FALK: Yes, we do.

9 THE COURT: Okay. The purpose of the hearing  
10 today is to advise you of the charges contained in the  
11 indictment, the potential penalties the charges carry,  
12 advise you of some of your constitutional rights, determine  
13 if you intend to retain counsel or if you're eligible for  
14 the appointment of counsel, set some further hearings in the  
15 case, and then make a decision about whether you'd be  
16 released on bond or detained pending resolution of your  
17 case.

18 So, first, you have a right to remain silent. You're  
19 not required to make any statement. If you have made a  
20 statement, you're not required to say anything more. If you  
21 start to make a statement, you may stop at any time.

22 You may consult with your attorney before any  
23 questioning, and you may have an attorney present during any  
24 questioning. Because you have a right not to make a  
25 statement, any statement that you do make other than to your

1 lawyer may be used against you.

2 Do you understand your right to silence?

3 DEFENDANT LAU: I do.

4 THE COURT: You also have the right to an attorney  
5 in this case. You have the right to be represented by that  
6 attorney during all stages of the case, both in court and  
7 out of court. You have a right to have that attorney with  
8 you during any questioning by authorities. You have a right  
9 to retain an attorney of your own choosing, but, if you  
10 can't afford one, I will appoint one to represent you at no  
11 cost to you.

12 Do you understand your right to an attorney?

13 DEFENDANT LAU: I do.

14 THE COURT: Okay. And, as we discussed on the  
15 record previously, I'm going to provisionally appoint Ms.  
16 Falk to represent you solely for purposes of today, until  
17 you can find your own -- I assume you're going to find  
18 privately retained counsel, correct?

19 DEFENDANT LAU: Yes.

20 THE COURT: Okay. All right. I don't want to  
21 make any assumptions about citizenship. Is the Defendant a  
22 U.S. citizen?

23 MS. FALK: I actually (indiscernible) that.

24 DEFENDANT LAU: Yes, I am.

25 THE COURT: Okay. So, turning to the indictment,

1 as I said, it charges you with a number of criminal  
2 offenses.

3 Mr. O'Brien, why don't you go ahead and summarize the  
4 charges and maximum penalties.

5 MR. O'BRIEN: Yes, your Honor. Ms. Lau is charged  
6 with several violations. First, counts four through nine  
7 charge violations of Title 18, United States Code Section  
8 1343, wire fraud, and counts 10 and 11 charge violations of  
9 Title 18, United States Code Section 1349, conspiracy to  
10 commit wire fraud. The maximum penalties per count, for all  
11 of those counts, is 20 years' imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine,  
12 or twice the gross pecuniary gain or loss from the offense,  
13 three years of supervised release, a \$100 special  
14 assessment, restitution, and forfeiture.

15 Counts 13 and 14 of the indictment charge violations of  
16 Title 15, United States Code Sections 78j(b) and 78f(f), and  
17 Title 17, Code of Federal Regulations Section 240.10b-5,  
18 securities fraud. The maximum penalties per count are 20  
19 years' imprisonment, a \$5,000,000 fine, three years of  
20 supervised release, a \$100 special assessment, restitution,  
21 and forfeiture.

22 Count 15 charges a violation of of Title 18, United  
23 States Code Section 371, conspiracy to commit securities  
24 fraud. The maximum penalties are five years' imprisonment,  
25 a \$250,000 fine, three years of supervised release, \$100

1 special assessment, restitution, and forfeiture.

2 Count 16 charges a violation of Title 18, United States  
3 Code Section 1349, conspiracy to commit bank fraud. The  
4 maximum penalties are 30 years' imprisonment, a \$1,000,000  
5 fine, five years of supervised release, and a \$100 special  
6 assessment, restitution, and forfeiture.

7 Count 17 charges a violation of Title 18, United States  
8 Code Section 1014, false statements to a bank or other  
9 federally insured institution. The maximum penalties are 30  
10 years' imprisonment, a \$1,000,000 fine, five years of  
11 supervised release, a \$100 special assessment, restitution,  
12 and forfeiture.

13 Count 18 charges a violation of Title 18, United States  
14 Code Section 1957, engaging in monetary transactions and  
15 property derived from specified unlawful activity. The  
16 maximum penalties are 10 years' imprisonment, a \$250,000  
17 fine or twice the amount of the criminally derived property  
18 involved in the transaction, three years of supervised  
19 release, a \$100 special assessment, restitution, and  
20 forfeiture.

21 Count 19 charges a violation of Title 18, United States  
22 Code Section 1028A, aggravated identity theft. The minimum  
23 penalty for this count is a mandatory minimum prison term of  
24 two years that must be consecutive to any other term of  
25 imprisonment imposed on the person under any other provision

1 of law, except the Court has discretion to impose concurrent  
2 sentences only with another term of imprisonment that is  
3 imposed by the Court at the same time on that person for an  
4 additional violation of this section.

5       The other maximum penalties are a \$250,000 fine, three  
6 years of supervised release, a \$100 special assessment,  
7 restitution, and forfeiture.

8       Count 25 charges a violation of Title 18, United States  
9 Code Section 1512(c)(1), obstruction of justice. The  
10 maximum penalties are 20 years' imprisonment, a \$250,000  
11 fine, three years of supervised release, and a \$100 special  
12 assessment.

13           THE COURT: Okay. Ms. Lau, do you understand the  
14 charges against you and the maximum penalties you face?

15           DEFENDANT LAU: Yes.

16           THE COURT: All right. So we didn't do this. Mr.  
17 Beckman, is there a motion to unseal the case?

18           MR. O'BRIEN: Yes, your Honor. The motion that  
19 was made in the Co-Defendant's case also is made here to  
20 unseal the case, except for the indictment, which will  
21 remain partially sealed. There will be a redacted copy of  
22 the indictment redacting certain street numbers and names,  
23 and the zip code.

24           THE COURT: And that corrected redacted version  
25 will be filed today?

1 MR. O'BRIEN: Yes, your Honor.

2 THE COURT: Okay. Ms. Falk, any objection to that  
3 procedure?

4 MS. FALK: No, your Honor.

5 THE COURT: All right. So granted.

6 And, as we discussed, Ms. Falk, at this point, since  
7 you're not the Defendant's counsel for the rest of the case,  
8 are you in a position to waive formal reading or enter a  
9 plea, or should we wait until (indiscernible) counsel?

10 MS. FALK: I am in a position. I have -- I'm  
11 happy to enter a not guilty plea on her behalf. I did  
12 discuss this all with her this morning, and she would just  
13 like to go ahead and enter a not guilty plea, have that be  
14 put on the record, and then just put this over for two weeks  
15 to try to find an attorney.

16 THE COURT: Okay. So, first, do you waive formal  
17 reading of the indictment on behalf of Ms. Lau?

18 MS. FALK: Yes, I do.

19 THE COURT: Okay. And let's formally enter the  
20 plea on behalf of --

21 MS. FALK: Not guilty to all charges, and the  
22 forfeiture allegation is denied.

23 THE COURT: Plea of not guilty on the charges in  
24 the indictment and denial of forfeiture will be entered.  
25 The record will reflect the Defendant has been arraigned on

1 the indictment.

2       So, pursuant to the Due Process Protection Act, counsel  
3 for the Government is reminded of their obligations,  
4 pursuant to Brady v. Maryland and its progeny, to disclose  
5 material that is favorable to the Defendant and material  
6 either to the Defendant's guilt or punishment.

7       The failure to do so in a timely manner may result in  
8 dismissal of the indictment or information, dismissal of  
9 individual charges, exclusion of government evidence or  
10 witnesses, or any other remedy that is just under the  
11 circumstances.

12       Mr. O'Brien, does the Government acknowledge those  
13 duties?

14           MR. O'BRIEN: Yes, your Honor.

15           THE COURT: Okay. I think you previewed this. Is  
16 there a release plan?

17           MR. O'BRIEN: Yes, your Honor. It would be the  
18 same conditions, with the modification that I made in Mr.  
19 Beckman's case to have pretrial supervision. We will shift  
20 over where the \$1,000,000 figure is in the bond form, and  
21 the plan would be to come back on February 10th, your Honor,  
22 for the next appearance in front of your Honor.

23           MS. FALK: So, if I could just have a minute with  
24 her?

25           All right, your Honor. I think we're prepared to go

1 forward if the Court wants to review the bond. It's very  
2 similar to the last bond, and I did not check -- I forgot to  
3 check the Pretrial Services box.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm sorry.

5 MS. FALK: Okay. That's fine.

6 Is she going to be released from here? Has she  
7 already been processed?

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No, and she'll have to go  
9 back up to 20 and do her release.

10 THE COURT: Again, with the parties' consent, I'm  
11 going to move the million dollars to the unsecured bond box  
12 and take it out of the personal recognizance box.

13 MR. O'BRIEN: Yes, your Honor. Thank you. My  
14 mistake.

15 THE COURT: Okay. Ms. Lau, the parties have  
16 worked out a release plan and certain conditions for your  
17 release. I want to go over those with you in detail so you  
18 understand what is going on here.

19 So, first, you're posting what's called a "secured  
20 bond" of a million dollars, which will be secured against  
21 the property at your residence at 3877-3879 Jackson Street.  
22 So do you understand that?

23 DEFENDANT LAU: Yes.

24 THE COURT: Okay. And what that means is if,  
25 while you're on release, you happen to violate any terms of

1 your conditions, the Government has the option to file a  
2 motion with the Court seeking forfeiture of the bond up to  
3 the full amount, plus interest and costs, so it could be  
4 more than a million dollars, and so this secured bond is a  
5 financial commitment for you to comply with all your  
6 conditions of release.

7           Do you understand that?

8           DEFENDANT LAU: I do.

9           THE COURT: And I didn't ask this on the record.  
10 Do you know if you have more than a million dollars in  
11 equity in that residence?

12           DEFENDANT LAU: I don't. I don't know.

13           MS. FALK: So what I think from reading the  
14 indictment -- Mr. O'Brien can correct me if I'm wrong -- is  
15 it was purchased in cash.

16           MR. O'BRIEN: It was, your Honor. There was then  
17 a loan taken out, but I believe there's more than \$2,000,000  
18 of equity in the house.

19           THE COURT: Okay. All right. With that  
20 representation, I'll go forward.

21           And so your current residence, just so I'm clear, is  
22 3877-3879 Jackson Street in San Francisco?

23           DEFENDANT LAU: Yes.

24           THE COURT: And your current phone number is  
25 (818) 271-8800?

1 DEFENDANT LAU: Yes.

2 THE COURT: So I'm going to go through the  
3 detailed conditions of your release, just to make sure you  
4 understand them all.

5 So, first, the Defendant must appear at all  
6 proceedings, as ordered by the Court, and must surrender for  
7 service of any sentence imposed.

8 The Defendant must not commit any federal, state, or  
9 local crime.

10 The Defendant must not harass, threaten, intimidate,  
11 injure, tamper with, or retaliate against any witness,  
12 victim, informant, juror, or officer of the Court, or  
13 obstruct any criminal investigation.

14 The Defendant must submit to supervision by Pretrial  
15 Services, and must report immediately upon release and  
16 thereafter as directed by Pretrial Services, and we'll get  
17 you that information in a second.

18 The Defendant must surrender any passports or other  
19 travel documents to Pretrial Services by January 23rd, 2025,  
20 and must not apply for other passports or travel documents.

21 Mr. O'Brien, did the Government seize already the  
22 Defendant's passport?

23 MR. O'BRIEN: I believe so, your Honor, and the  
24 FBI will make that available to Pretrial Services.

25 THE COURT: The Defendant must not possess any

1 firearm, destructive device, or other dangerous weapon.

2       The Defendant must not use alcohol to excess, and must  
3 not use or possess any narcotic or other controlled  
4 substance without a legal prescription.

5       The Defendant must have no contact, directly or  
6 indirectly, with any co-defendant outside of the presence of  
7 counsel.

8       The Defendant must not change residence or telephone  
9 number without prior approval of Pretrial Services, and we  
10 went through your address and phone number.

11      The Defendant must comply with the following location  
12 restrictions. The Defendant must not travel outside of the  
13 Northern District of California, and there's a map in the  
14 bond form that identifies what counties of California that  
15 comprises the Northern District.

16      So, Ms. Lau, do you understand all those conditions of  
17 release?

18           DEFENDANT LAU: I do.

19           MR. O'BRIEN: Your Honor, briefly, I'm just  
20 noticing that the Defendant must now have no contact,  
21 directly or indirectly, with any co-defendant outside the  
22 presence of counsel. That should be limited to about this  
23 case.

24           MS. FALK: I thought you put that in there.

25           MR. O'BRIEN: Yes. So I think that is missing

1 there, and to the extent it's missing in Mr. Beckman's, I'll  
2 make that change with Mr. Joiner and submit something to the  
3 Court.

4 THE COURT: Okay. So I've edited the conditions  
5 to say:

6 "Defendant must have no contact,  
7 directly or indirectly, with any  
8 co-defendant outside of the presence of  
9 counsel about this case."

10 MS. FALK: Okay. Because they share a trial, and  
11 so it would be pretty challenging.

12 THE COURT: I did ask in the previous hearing,  
13 logistically, how that works, and it's just as written.

14 MR. O'BRIEN: Yes, and I apologize, your Honor.  
15 That -- I thought that's what it said, and it's -- my  
16 apologies.

17 THE COURT: Okay. So everybody is fine with those  
18 edits?

19 MS. FALK: Yes.

20 THE COURT: Okay. So, with those edits, Ms. Lau,  
21 do you understand the terms of your conditions of release?

22 DEFENDANT LAU: Yes, I do.

23 THE COURT: Okay. So I'm going to stress a couple  
24 things. So, first of all, failure to appear in court is a  
25 crime, separately, under 18 U.S.C. Section 3146, and that

1 could lead to a sentence of imprisonment.

2 As I said, committing -- you can't be committing any  
3 crimes while on release, but, of course, committing a crime  
4 on release could lead to more severe punishments than  
5 ordinarily.

6 It is a crime to try to influence a juror, threaten or  
7 attempt to bribe a witness, retaliate against anyone for  
8 providing information about this case, or otherwise obstruct  
9 justice.

10 You understand all that?

11 DEFENDANT LAU: I do.

12 THE COURT: Okay. All right. So, last chance,  
13 Government. Any other edits to the bond form?

14 MR. O'BRIEN: No, your Honor. Thank you.

15 THE COURT: Defense?

16 MS. FALK: No, thanks.

17 THE COURT: Pretrial?

18 MS. JOHNSON: No, your Honor.

19 THE COURT: Let's get this executed.

20 MS. FALK: Your Honor, I did discuss with Ms.  
21 Lau -- she does have a right to a trial in 70 days. Given  
22 that she doesn't have a lawyer, it's not advisable that she  
23 would want to have a speedy trial at this exact moment. So  
24 I am signing an exclusion of time, to give her time to find  
25 an attorney, and I did discuss that with her, that she would

1 need that time, and she's in agreement that she needs that  
2 time.

3 THE COURT: So, Ms. Lau, is this your signature on  
4 the bond form?

5 DEFENDANT LAU: Yes.

6 THE COURT: Okay. And you understand all the  
7 conditions of your release, and you agreed to them before  
8 you signed?

9 DEFENDANT LAU: Yes.

10 THE COURT: Okay. I'm going to sign off on the  
11 bond form. All right. Can I have a representation of the  
12 Government as to the voluminous nature of discovery in this  
13 case?

14 MR. O'BRIEN: Yes, your Honor.

15 THE COURT: Okay. So I've been provided the  
16 parties' stipulation to exclude time from January 23rd,  
17 today, until February 10th, which is going to be our next  
18 hearing, on the grounds that failure to grant a continuance  
19 would deny the Defendant reasonable time to obtain counsel,  
20 and, also, it's necessary for effective preparation, given  
21 the representation as to the voluminous nature of discovery,  
22 and I will sign the order.

23 Okay. So let's set the next hearing for February 10th  
24 at 2:00 p.m. for ID of counsel and status on the bond as  
25 well.

1 MR. O'BRIEN: Yes, your Honor.

2 THE COURT: And I do want a post-bail report from  
3 Pretrial for both this Defendant and the Co-Defendant. I  
4 forgot to say that on the record.

5 MS. JOHNSON: Understood, your Honor.

6 THE COURT: Okay.

7 MS. FALK: And, your Honor, just so that I'm  
8 clear, I'm not going to be participating in the post-bail  
9 process, but I would recommend that she wait for her  
10 attorney to be present for that interview. I think that's  
11 really important.

12 So, given that she's going to have to find somebody,  
13 there may be a little delay in getting Pretrial an  
14 interview, but I will let her know to have any attorney that  
15 she hires call me, so I can make sure that they know to  
16 contact Pretrial.

17 THE COURT: Pretrial understands that?

18 MS. JOHNSON: Yes, your Honor.

19 THE COURT: All right. Did you give the contact  
20 info to the Defendant?

21 MS. JOHNSON: I'll do that right now.

22 THE COURT: Okay. So, Ms. Lau, procedurally,  
23 what's going to happen is you're going to go upstairs and  
24 get out-processed on the 20th floor, and then, immediately  
25 after that, you're going to be released, subject to all the

1 conditions we talked about.

2       Do I have your promise you're going to abide by all  
3 your conditions of release?

4           DEFENDANT LAU: I promise.

5           THE COURT: All right. And then, once you get  
6 counsel lined up, then, with that counsel's schedule,  
7 contact Pretrial Services with the schedule and interview.  
8 Okay?

9           DEFENDANT LAU: Okay.

10          MS. FALK: And so today you're just going to go  
11 over the conditions? You're not going to interview her?

12          MS. JOHNSON: That's correct.

13          THE COURT: Okay. So I'll process on 20. Go to  
14 Pretrial for that initial meeting, and then later set up an  
15 interview with Pretrial with your counsel.

16          For the record, the next hearing is set before me, for  
17 February 10th at 2:00 p.m., for ID of counsel and status on  
18 the bond.

19          MS. FALK: February 10th? Sorry.

20          THE COURT: Yes.

21          MS. FALK: 2/10/25 for ID counsel.

22          THE COURT: Anything further from the Government?

23          MR. O'BRIEN: No, your Honor.

24          THE COURT: Okay. Anything further from the  
25 defense?

1 MS. FALK: No, your Honor.

2 THE COURT: Anything further from Pretrial?

3 MS. JOHNSON: No, your Honor.

4 THE COURT: All right. So, Ms. Lau, you are  
5 remanded to the custody of the U.S. Marshals for purposes of  
6 out-processing, and, as I said, you'll be released subject  
7 to all your conditions of your bond. Okay? And then we're  
8 adjourned until the next hearing, which will be February  
9 10th at 2:00 p.m., here.

10 MR. O'BRIEN: Thank you, your Honor.

11 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

12 THE CLERK: We're off the record in this matter.

13 (Proceedings adjourned at 12:05 p.m.)

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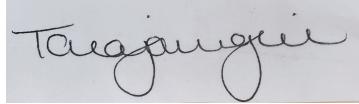
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1                   CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER

2  
3       I certify that the foregoing is a true and correct  
4 transcript, to the best of my ability, of the above pages of  
5 the official electronic sound recording provided to me by  
6 the U.S. District Court, Northern District of California, of  
7 the proceedings taken on the date and time previously stated  
8 in the above matter.

9       I further certify that I am neither counsel for,  
10 related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action  
11 in which this hearing was taken; and, further, that I am not  
12 financially nor otherwise interested in the outcome of the  
13 action.

14  
15                     
16

17                   Echo Reporting, Inc., Transcriber

18                   Thursday, February 27, 2025

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